

*The First Presbyterian Church of Dunedin
The Fourth Sunday in Advent
December 20, 2009
10:30 a.m.*

Enter the church in silence. Through silence speak to God and let God speak to you.

PREPARATION: *The following are the scripture texts for this morning: Psalm 80:1-7 (Pew Bible pages 470-471); Micah 5:2-5 (pages 756-757) Bethlehem shall bring forth the one who will rule Israel in peace. Hebrews 10:5-10 (page 976) Salvation through Christ, who learned obedience through suffering. Luke 1:39-55 (pages 831-832) Mary sings in praise of the salvific promises of God (the Magnificat). Mary visits Elizabeth.*

PRAYER FOR THE DAY: *God of grace, your eternal Word took flesh among us when Mary placed her life at the service of your will. Prepare our hearts for his coming again; keep us steadfast in hope and faithful in service, that we may receive the coming of his kingdom, for the sake of Jesus Christ the ruler of all, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

THE GATHERING

BELL PEAL

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WELCOME

PRELUDE

“The Wexford Carol”

Farrell

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE

LEADER: We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ. Advent means coming. We are preparing ourselves for the days when the nations shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. (Isaiah 2:4)

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. (Isaiah 11:6)

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. (Isaiah 35:1)

The Lord will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel (God with us). (Isaiah 7:14)

In whom is our Peace?

PEOPLE: **Our Peace is in the name of the Lord.**

***(Hymn #2) Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art;
dear desire of every nation joy of every longing heart.**

*OPENING SENTENCES

LEADER: The time has come to give thanks:

PEOPLE: **for what was, what is, what is to come.**

LEADER: The time has come to bless:

PEOPLE: **the One who created us and the neighbors who share creation.**

LEADER: The time has come to labor:

PEOPLE: **to birth peace, to bring forth plenty, to nurture love.**

ALL: **The time has come to welcome and to worship God.**

*HYMN #12

“People Look East”

Besançon

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

LEADER: If anyone sins, we have someone who pleads with the Father on our behalf – Jesus Christ, the righteous one.

PEOPLE: **And Christ himself is the means by which our sins are forgiven, and not our sins only, but also the sins of everyone.**

LEADER: Trusting in God's promises, let us confess our sins against God and neighbor.

ALL: **God, our God: We confess that we probably wouldn't recognize an angel if you sent one. We confess that we would prefer not to listen to any angels we might recognize. We confess that we would prefer that you not ask us to commit our lives to your service. We confess that we would prefer to say no after we have heard your request. We confess that we are more frightened than we ever imagined. Forgive our fear and give the courage to see, to hear, to realize, and to accept that you love us enough to trust us in spite of this. Amen.**

RESPONSE (Hymn #11) “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?” Valet Will Ich Dir Geben

ALL: **Love caused Your incarnation, love brought You down to me;**

Your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.

O love beyond all telling, that led You to embrace

In love all loves excelling our lost and fallen race.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

LEADER: We do not repent nor wait in vain, for Jesus who has come, comes again, to be in his dying and rising the assurance of sin forgiven and death defeated.

ALL: **Thanks and praise and glory be to Jesus our Savior! Amen.**

***GLORIA PATRI (Hymnal #579) “Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.”**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Eric Houghton

(At this time the children may leave for Sonshine Mountain.)

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION OLD TESTAMENT READING

Micah 5:2-5

The Word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

“My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord”

Praetorius

GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:39-55

The Gospel of the Lord!
Praise to You, O Christ!

SERMON

“Finding Community”

Rev. Victoria ByRoaide

THE RESPONSE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

John 1:1-5,14

In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being with him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth. Amen.

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY

“Lo, How a Rose”

arr. Manz

*DOXOLOGY (Hymnal #591) “Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.”

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE SENDING

*HYMN

“Mary Gladly Told Her Cousin”

(To tune: Irby)

Mary gladly told her cousin, “Praise the Lord! My spirit sings!”
Young and humble, she’d been chosen! God was surely changing things!
God of love, her words ring true As we sing her prayer to you:

“Now my soul is gladly singing At the greatness of the Lord.
I rejoice, for God is bringing God’s salvation to the world.
All who live will say I’m blessed Even in my lowliness.

“God is mighty, just and holy, And has done great things for me.
Those who fear God know the mercy That God gives us endlessly.
Mighty ones are brought down low; Lowly ones find blessings flow.

“God has filled the poor and hungry, And has sent the rich away.
God is active here in history, In a real and wondrous way.
God has promised, and I’m blessed, For I know God’s faithfulness.”

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*BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE (Hymn #20)

“Watchman, Tell Us of the Night”

Aberystwyth

ALL: Watchman, tell us of the night, higher yet that star ascends.

Traveler, blessedness and light, peace and truth its course portends.

Watchman, will its beams alone gild the spot that gave them birth?

Traveler, ages are its own; see, it bursts o’er all the earth.

*CHARGE

*POSTLUDE

“My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord”

Praetorius

(The congregation is invited to leave the sanctuary in silence as the Postlude is played.)

**The congregation stands. If standing is difficult for you, please feel free to remain seated.*

NEXT SUNDAY, December 27, 2009 will be the First Sunday after Christmas. *The scripture readings will be: Psalm 148 (Pew Bible page 508); 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 (pages 214-215) Eli blesses Elkinah and Hannah for the gift of their son Samuel. Colossians 3:12-17 (page 958) Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts; do all in the name of the Lord. Luke 2:41-52 (pages 833-834) Jesus as a child in the temple, listening to and questioning the teachers.*

PRAYER FOR PEACE - Kurds in Turkey Civilizations have a long history of discrimination. Just as the Russians refused to allow Polish to be spoken for 100 years, and the English forbade Irish Catholics to be taught to read, the leadership in Turkey has finally acknowledged that the Kurds who live in their midst are being mistreated. Presently, Kurdish is not allowed to be spoken even in private conversation; but recently, the Turkish Government is moving to allow Kurdish families to speak Kurdish to their family members in prisons; a radio station in Kurdish has been launched, and Kurdish towns will be able to use their Kurdish names. Language and access to education are symbols of freedom throughout the world. For Turkey to fulfill its potential as a secular Muslim democracy, they will have to keep battling the theocrats, nationalists and others to make additional political and economic reforms, without sacrificing free political debate. The United States and other Western countries that have long pushed Turkey to become more democratic should encourage Turkish leaders to keep pressing ahead. Most important, Europe must finally make clear that if Turkey bolsters its democracy and respects the rights of its minorities, it will be welcome in the European Union. *Father in Heaven, bless the Kurds who are living in Turkey and Iraq. Help the governments acknowledge their uniqueness while absorbing the Kurds into the life of the towns and governments, so that there is truly freedom of religion for them. Lead them all in Your Grace. Amen.*

IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR A CHURCH HOME and are interested in joining First Presbyterian Church of Dunedin, please indicate your desire to Pastor ByRoade so we can arrange a gathering of our Session.

WE WELCOME ALL WHO WORSHIP HERE TODAY – Coffee is available in Hager Hall following both services. Coloring pages for children to use during the worship hour are available from the ushers. Before “THE WORD”, girls and boys PK4 through 5th grade are invited to attend Sunday school on “Sonshine Mountain”. Our nursery, for infants through age 3, is in the Christian Education Building, downstairs in Room 103. Large print bulletins and large print hymnals are available from the ushers. Hearing devices are also available. Please ask for one at the sound booth.

PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

USHERS: Don Shaffer, Diana Carsey

LITURGIST: Gayle Hill

ACOLYTE: Jonathan Gibbs

THE POINSETTIAS ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD BY

Dodie Anderson, Ellen Backhoffen, Mary Ann Beall, Bob and Debbie Blocher, Lynn and Paul Burks, Vicki and Dusty ByRoade, Jackie Chalk, Dorothy Carmichael, Chris and Donna Dayock, Doug and Marion Davis, Amanda Flemming, Carol Franklin, Jack Gow, Pauline Jones, Richard and Addie Lou Gilchrist, Doris Hinson, Luke and Pat Howe, Anna Jones, Garry and Carol Justice, Hazel Kirk, Charlie and Susan Littlejohn, Twila Miller, Brabara Nourse, Mary Louise O’Malley, Richard and Marge Bishop Simon, Jan Stephens, Joyce Swan, Jeff and Ann Thomas, Dave and Mary Walthall, Ron and Ginger Watson, Marion Yongue

TODAY’S OPPORTUNITIES

- 8:45 a.m. – Worship Café
- 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School/Fellowship
- 10:00 a.m. – Reception for Luke Phillips
- 10:30 a.m. – Traditional Worship
- 11:30 a.m. – Called Session meeting

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Monday (21 st)	10:00 a.m.	Strong for Life
Wednesday (23 rd)	NO ACTIVITIES	
Thursday (24 th)	5:00 p.m.	Family Christmas Eve Service
	8:00 p.m.	Candlelight/Communion Service
	11:00 p.m.	Candlelight/Communion Service
Friday (25 th)	CHRISTMAS DAY – CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THERE WILL BE A CALLED SESSION MEETING today in the library following the 10:30 a.m. worship service to receive new members.

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED Friday, December 25 for the Christmas holiday.

3 CENTS A MEAL will be collected today. Thank you for sharing your abundance with others as Christ has challenged all of us to do. If each member at FPC gave 3 cents a meal for one year, their individual contribution would be \$32.85 – what a positive impact that would be for helping others! Make this part of your overall mission support.

JOY OFFERING The Christmas Joy Offering is received today. Joy Offering revenue is split evenly between the Board of Pensions programs for retired Church staff and students of racial ethnic colleges who are studying ministry. Please give generously to the Joy Offering.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR FIRST CHURCH SCHOLARS If you are a full-time student at one of the Florida colleges or universities, you may qualify for a Gladys Douglas Hackworth Scholarship. If you are a full-time student at a non-Florida college, you may apply for a scholarship from the James Crozier Scholarship Fund. Please send a letter to Mary Walthall, 1781 Briar Circle, Dunedin, FL 34698. You may also e-mail Mary at mwalthall@tampabay.rr.com. Include you college goals, status, number of courses schedules, social security number and the address of the financial aid department of your college in your request. If you are a current scholarship recipient, please include a copy of your grades. Please submit your request to Mary by January 17, 2010.

FIRST FRIDAY CONVERSATION January 8 – 11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. East Hager Hall Join us for a brown bag lunch, followed by a “walkabout” in the sanctuary to learn about the stained glass windows of First Church. Led by Eric Houghton, learn about the symbolism in the windows which enhance our worship experience every Sunday morning. Bring a friend: newcomers always welcome! Program coordinator: Joyce Swan.

FIRST SUNDAY BOOKS – January 10 – 7-8:15 p.m. – First Church library **MODOC: The True Story of the Greatest Elephant That Ever Lived** by Ralph Helfer Joint biography of a man and an elephant (both born on the same day in 1896), a true life adventure epic. If you love animals, you’ll be amazed at the lifetime story of Bram and his elephant MODOC. Join us for a discussion about dreams, friendship, love, devotion and loyalty! Discussion leader: Laurie Closson. Bring a friend; newcomers always welcome!

PRAYER REQUESTS the names of people who have requested prayer are listed in italics the first week of their request and any time there are changes in their condition or place of recuperation. A complete listing of the people for whom we need to lift our prayers will also be provided for you in each edition of THE VOICE. (Please call the church office if you have a prayer concern.)

- *Clara Mary Huff at Mease Dunedin*
- *Dick Boles at West Chester Gardens following hip replacement surgery*
- *Jean Joiner moved to Mease Assisted Living*
- *Joe Tilney at Manor Care on Patricia*
- *Thelma Powell at Manor Care on Tampa Road*
- *Laura Garcia at home following surgery*
- Monica Adams, friend of the church, at home
- Mary Greenlee-Krull, mother of Joanne Maddux, recuperating at Bay Alliance Health Care in Dunedin
- Cathy Davide, mother of Craig Davide, undergoing treatment for cancer
- Ron McDermott recuperating at home
- John Eichenberger, nephew of David and Bobbie Eichenberger, preparing to be fitted for his first prosthesis
- Anne Trahan, mother of Betsi Lewis-Knapp, under Hospice care
- Scott Miller, friend of Debbie and Keith Watson, diagnosed with lung cancer
- Hazel Aughenbaugh at Manor Care
- Blanche Kirchoffer at Baytree Rehab
- Mae Harrington, daughter of Leona Baker Everitt, following surgery
- Marge Vilsoet and Don Hart undergoing cancer treatments
- Sandi Geller, family friend of Dave and Bobbie Eichenberger, following surgery
- Paul Kuehner recovering from cancer surgery
- Fran Iosa, mother of Jeff Iosa, being treated for cancer
- For improved health: Barbara Frett, Marion Guthrie, Martha Brinklow, Betsy Perkins, Bill Vilsoet, Sharyn Ramirez, Lois Krebs, Dotsie Dauble, Peg Harvie, Dee Faust, Walter Brashear, Dave Dauble, Eva Marcantel
- All our members who reside in skilled nursing homes
- The Transfiguration Faith Community of St. Petersburg, a new church development in the Presbytery of Tampa Bay
- Luke Phillips, our contemporary worship leader, as he begins the process toward ordination
- First Presbyterian Church in our desire to be responsible stewards of our talents and finances

First Church Financial Status on: December 16, 2209

<i>Operating Funds</i>	<i>Revenue</i>	<i>Expenses</i>	<i>Surplus (Deficit)</i>
Church	\$ 370,691	\$ 461,757	\$ (91,066)
Pre-School	\$ 225,729	\$ 221,263	\$ 4,466
Totals:	\$ 596,420	\$ 683,020	\$ (86,600)

Tithes and other contributions to First Church are almost 10 percent below expectations for this point in the year.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DUNEDIN

**455 SCOTLAND STREET
DUNEDIN, FLORIDA 34698
TELEPHONE: 727-733-2318**

WEB SITE: fpcdunedin.org EMAIL: officeadminfpc@tampabay.rr.com

MINISTERS

PASTOR/HEAD OF STAFF

PARISH ASSOCIATE

PASTOR EMERITUS

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC/ORGANIST

YOUNG LIFE CHURCH PARTNER

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP LEADER/MINISTRY INTERN

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

ASSISTANT TO ADMINISTRATOR

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

CUSTODIAN

PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

All the Members
The Rev. Victoria M. Gardner ByRoade
The Rev. Willard N. Doyle
The Rev. W. Martin Hager
Stephen L. Allen
Jeff Iosa
Luke Phillips
Donna Dayock
Stephen L. Allen
Betsi Knapp
David Rodman
Cori LoCicero

THE SESSION OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DUNEDIN

MODERATOR: Rev. Victoria ByRoade

CLERK OF SESSION: John Brockman

Class of 2010

Jim Gibbs
Marion Guthrie
Jim Szatkowski
Mary Walthall

Class of 2011

Welch Agnew
Bob Blocher
John Brockman
Marge Brown
Greg Long
Clare McGrane

Class of 2012

Rosalie Bergman
Tami Ehmig
David Eichenberger
Beverly Fisher
Peggy George
Ann Sabo

The Mission of the First Presbyterian Church of Dunedin is to worship God joyfully, love all people genuinely, help those in need selflessly and share the gospel of salvation freely.

Historic

First Presbyterian Church of Dunedin



Historic First Presbyterian Church of Dunedin, Florida

“Continuing God's Work Since 1871”

455 Scotland Street - Dunedin, Florida 34698

Victoria ByRoade - Pastor

Telephone: 727-733-2318

www.fpcdunedin.org

email: officeadminfpc@tampabay.rr.com